

Germany's town hall

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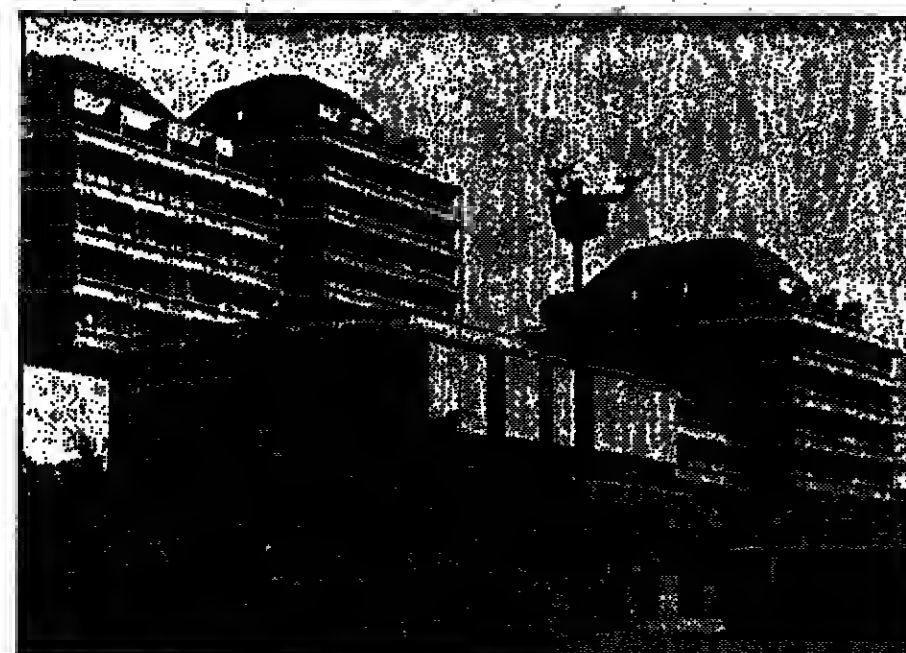
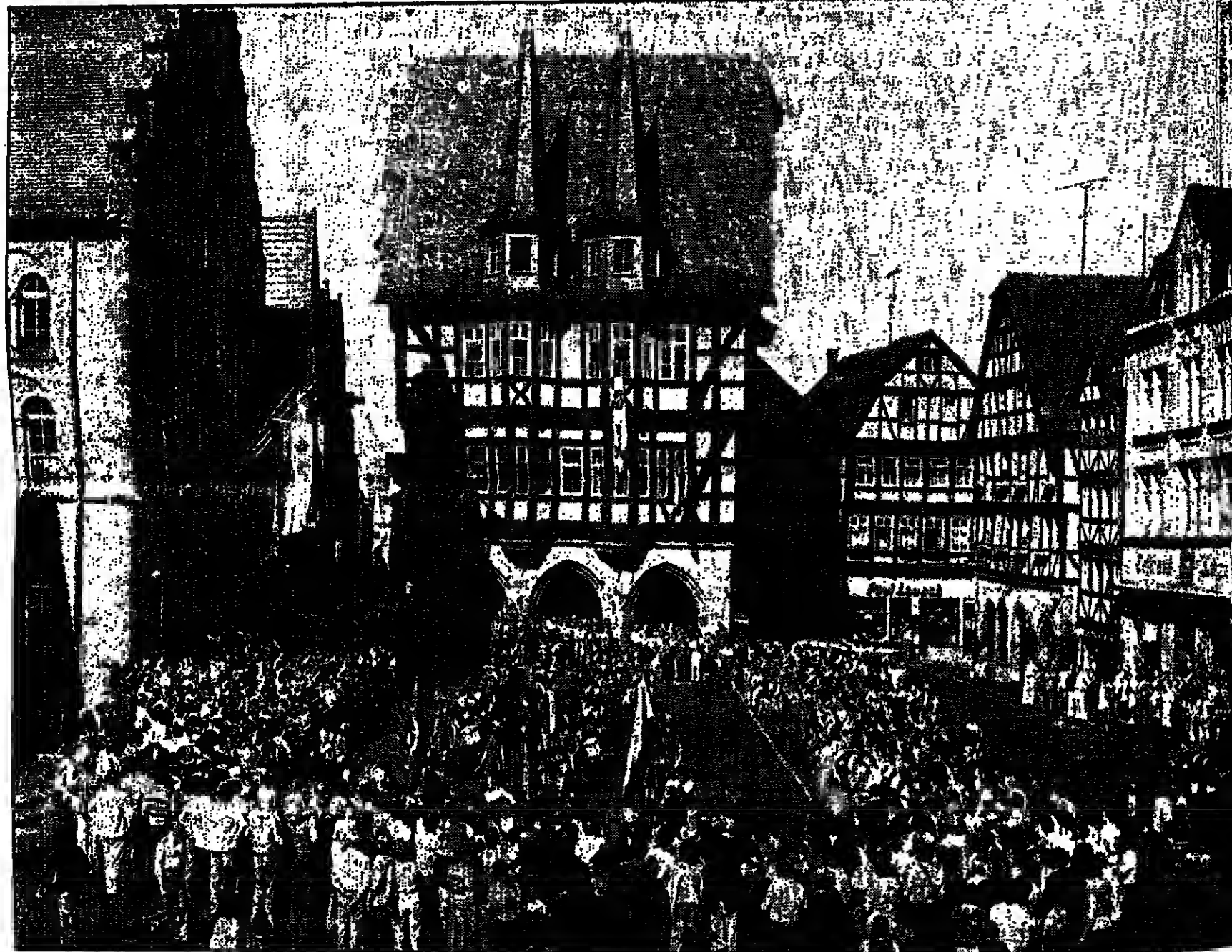
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It's true. In Goethe's Frankfurt there is the old Town Hall, dating from the 15th and 16th centuries. But there is also the modern "technica" Town Hall, rather like the Astro-Houston Center in downtown Houston. And there's another in Bonn, resembling a white mountain.

peek, ultramodern, like Mont Blanc on the Rhine. But the historic old town halls still predominate in Germany. Have you seen the delightful half-timbered building in Aisfeld, dating from 1512? Bernkastel town hall on the Moselle? The Renaissance one in Lindau on

Lake Constance? Or perhaps one built in 1484 for the city of Michelstadt in the Odenwald which looks like a Gothic doll house or a present bought in an old-fashioned toyshop? You try it sometime for a change. A trip to Germany's town halls.



Aisfeld

Frankfurt am Main

Unlimited agenda for the North-South summit

There will be no limit to what can be discussed at the North-South summit in Mexico in October. The aim of the meeting will be to build confidence for further talks on a new international economic order at the United Nations.

At a preliminary meeting in Mexico City, the groundwork for October, 22 foreign ministers were unable to agree on an agenda.

Rather than risk confrontation, they ended the meeting early.

So the exchange of views between heads of government of 22 rich and poor countries, is to be held without the slightest constraints of protocol and without a written declaration of intent.

Taking part in the meetings are Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, France, Guyana, India, the Ivory Coast, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Tanzania, the United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In view of the unpredictable nature of world affairs they had evidently been asked by their governments to avoid making any limitation in the number of agenda issues for discussion.

What they were told to do even at the end of the North-South summit ending without conclusions that could be issued in published form.

Two events contributed towards this readiness to part company without having reached specific conclusions. They were the Ottawa economic summit and Cuba's bid to hold a preliminary conference of southern hemisphere countries in New York.

At Ottawa the South expected the industrialised countries of the West to take a hard line on the North-South issues. They failed to do so.

Cuba, in contrast, included out of the twelve gathering of North-South countries, hoped at its proposed pre-conference to line up the South in a head-on collision with the United States and the other Western industrialised countries.

The death in a plane crash of General Torrijos, head of the Panamanian national guard, hit the tropical atmosphere of the Mexican holiday resort where the Foreign Ministers met like a cold shower.

General Torrijos' death was felt by a number of delegations to have been to coincide with the conference.

He is the second Latin American political leader to have died in two weeks in a plane crash: "due to poor conditions."

The first was President Roldos of Ecuador, an elected president who after years of military dictatorship restored parliamentary democracy on a note of critical detachment from the United States.

General Torrijos was the man who forced the United States to agree to return the Panama Canal to Panamanian sovereignty.

All in all, the Foreign Ministers' conference as a dress rehearsal for the full summit in October ran smoothly and without sensations.

Delegations preferred not to put their differences of opinion to the fore; they tacitly acknowledged as a possible advantage of the North-South talks the fact that there were no closed fronts even on individual issues.

Bids by both the United States and Mexico to set up basic approaches for both groups at the conference and have them declared generally binding failed from the start.

At a preliminary conference of the South in New York Mexico was unable to gain approval of a 30-page paper as a fundamental document.

In Ottawa the United States was similarly unable to induce the North to adopt a joint approach to the Mexico conference.

Japan and France, however, assured President Lopez Portillo of Mexico at the Foreign Ministers' conference that their views on the North-South talks were attuned to his own.

In other words they, as industrialised countries, feel that economic aid to stabilise political and social conditions in the developing countries is the sole guarantee of developing countries being able to exercise their right of self-determination.

Bonn's Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who did not make a stopover in Mexico City headed straight for Cancun, the conference venue, and a 90-minute talk with Foreign Minister Huang Hua of China.

Before the Foreign Ministers met Herr Genscher hastened to reaffirm that Germany too felt the industrialised countries were duty bound to give the Third World economic aid with this end in view.



Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer (left) with Chancellor Schmidt at the Press conference to announce budget plans (See page 3). (Photo: dpa)

A matter of spending priorities

After the gathering he told German journalists the awareness of mutual dependence had been heightened, laying a firm foundation for the October summit.

Bonn would do all it could to ensure a prompt start to overall talks at the UN General Assembly on a new international economic order.

It would also seek to make headway on the findings of the North-South summit. This would have a key feature of German foreign policy.

Canada, France and Germany took a critical view of US economic and foreign policy at the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

This earned them the goodwill of the Southern countries and, oddly enough, prevented an initial confrontation with the United States at the gathering.

US Secretary of State Haig, contrary to his strong words before the Ottawa and Cancun talks, did his best to avoid harsh words and insulting turns of phrase.

He tried to make US readiness to lend a hand appear in the best possible light. The United States is clearly aware that there is a loose but united front crossing North-South lines which is opposed to US monetary and economic policies.

So Washington is keen to avoid the building of forts with their colours nailed to the mast. It would prefer to wage war more flexibly and with greater mobility.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 August 1981)

Washington's disappointment at the size of Bonn's proposed increase in defence spending of 4.2 per cent cannot lightly be brushed aside.

At a time when the United States is drastically increasing its arms expenditure this thrift on the part of a major ally may well be seen as a sign that Bonn plans to loosen links with Washington.

This is an issue Bonn must settle, the fact being that different yardsticks apply on either side of the Atlantic.

The Americans want to make good what they feel they have neglected for years, both in overall strategy and in relation to Europe, in comparison with the Soviet Union.

Bonn, on the other hand, does not feel it can accuse itself of neglecting the Bundeswehr.

In domestic terms it is exactly the opposite. The Social and Free Democrats, who share power in Bonn, are under pressure to prune defence spending after years of lavish expenditure.

This pressure is particularly strong because defence cuts are felt to be essential as a counterweight to drastic cuts in the welfare sector.

Other political dynamite would mount up: and hardly help Bonn's role as a mainstay of the Western alliance.

Understandably the Bonn Opposition have taken up US dissatisfaction on this score. But they would be well advised not to overdo it.

There is no need to prompt on the home front an outright clash between Washington and Bonn on armaments. Chancellor Schmidt has given his word that Bonn's (and NATO's) security interests will in no way suffer.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 3 August 1981)

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

J.F. Kennedy visit the brightest of a many-faceted image of Uncle Sam

Relations between Germans and Americans reached an unprecedented peak nearly 20 years ago when President Kennedy visited the Federal Republic.

For a moment the two nations seemed to be one. It was much more than the politely applauded visit of a foreign head of state.

It was a triumphal procession without equal, satisfying for once the ever-present desire for the good guy, the hero in politics.

None of Kennedy's successors managed such a degree of popularity in Germany. US popularity slumped dramatically during the Vietnam war, especially among the younger generation.

After Watergate the slump was accentuated by what might even be termed moralising, superciliousness, an attitude by no means alien to political ties between Bonn and Washington.

The failure of President Carter's bid to rescue the Tebran hostages was to a large extent registered with a mixture of sympathy and amusement.

The United States is now being criticised again in connection with the arms debate. But do Germans really hold strongly anti-American feelings?

Opinion polls in recent years in no way indicate that they do. The signs are that criticism of the US on specific issues has failed to change the overall esteem in which America is held.

Criticism of the US government on



individual issues is, after all, merely part and parcel of the merry-go-round of news and views in the media age.

The honeymoon is over. It has occasionally been said, and this is probably a more accurate comparison than talk of anti-Americanism.

There can be no mistaking a return to normal, if only because it is a far cry from the days when ties between the two countries were governed more by sentiment.

Judgements and prejudices on other countries are influenced in part, when all is said and done, by personal encounters.

For many who grew up in the US Zone of post-war Germany the United States came to mean GIs who generously doled out such treasured commodities as chewing gum and chocolate.

America was equated with Care food parcels and *Rosinenbomber*, or raisin bombers, as the US airlift planes bound for Berlin were known.

For Germans who grew up in the post-war years the dream of a better tomorrow will always be associated with the American way of life.

This may not be so for today's young people, who are in any case little inclined to accept the historical conditions of their existence.

But as for their elders, memories may have faded, but not to the extent that they have been forgotten, and they are memories that are a poor breeding ground for anti-American sentiment.

The special relationship Germans have with the New World is based on more than material considerations. At the end of the war Germany was defeated, destroyed and at odds with itself.

After the war it learnt, almost as a matter of course, on the powerful, one might even say legendary, United States and at times hid behind it.

But divided Germany had to come to terms with itself and embarked, like any other country, on a quest for national identity.

In the process it was virtually bound to part-company to some extent with its all-powerful model, the USA.

Genuine anti-Americanism can be studied in Iran, where even the humble Coke bottle is felt to symbolise a diabolical imperialism.

In Iran was is waged on Western civilisation in general and the American way of life in particular with an earnest that has long gone round the bend to madness.

For Germany such an obsession is no more than a historic memory of, say, the much-vaunted arch-enmity between Germany and France.

Unlike in Britain or France, no resistance in Germany to the situation of the arts or the cities. US books, TV series and restaurants are welcomed, or at least accepted.

At times one might even wish mans showed more signs of independence and independence.

Why not put paid to many of the silly, self-important Anglicisms Germans use? It would surely be a fuddy-duddy and old-fashioned idea.

American fashions and trends sometimes aped with laughable naivety. This trend to imitate the USA is shown by the American life continues to exercise its influence.

Viewed in this light, an American such as the *Amerika-Haus*, as information centres are known in New York, is touchingly antiquated.

US cultural diplomacy is a matter of course, on the powerful, one might even say legendary, United States and at times hid behind it.

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HOME AFFAIRS

Bonn decides where the budget axe will fall



of, about DM18bn are to be made in the 1982 budget. DM9.5bn will be saved in the social security

In addition, a tobacco tax increase from June 1 next year should save DM1.4bn.

These moves were announced by the Chancellor, Herr Schmidt, after three days of negotiations between the coalition parties, the SPD and the FDP, and the Cabinet meeting.

The details have yet to be worked out. The plan will be approved as draft laws by the Bundestag next month.

Germany via the US motion picture industry.

This indeed is what is at issue about Germany's relationship with America. Positive or negative views hardly been able to take shape.

Years ago scholarship-holders asked how they felt about America. Those who had never been there were disparaging; those who had were enthusiastic.

Michael Schmidt, head of the National Security Council, seems to be the next democratic candidate.

Heiko Flottau (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 21 July 1981) (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1981)

come under the axe. It has grown uncontrollably.

This growth could only be paid for if the economy was growing quickly enough. It isn't.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer was right when he said that ever rising taxes and social security contributions had a negative effect on work performance.

The average earner now pays 37 pfennigs in every Deutschmark of extra earnings to the state in the form of taxes and social security contributions. And unless something is done soon this will soon rise to 50 pfennigs.

The realisation that demands on the state cannot go up indefinitely if investments are to be maintained was the guiding principle in the budget talks.

Pruning will concentrate on the abuse of unemployment benefits. Here the cabinet thought it intolerable that the take-home pay of a worker was less than the income of a clever operator who knew how to divide his year into a few months of work and lots of leisure time at the expense of the social security system.

The headaches stemmed when it became obvious that eliminating abuses alone cannot put an end to the growing social security sector.

This is particularly evident in the unemployment insurance where the pinch is felt more than anywhere else.

Eliminating abuse here would save DM3bn at best, which is only a fraction of the deficit that now stands at more

than DM10bn in the Federal Labour Office budget alone.

The cabinet's answer to the problem can best be summed up as austerity cosmetics.

The Finance Ministry is unwilling to contribute more than about one-third to help plug the Labour Office hole.

Another third is to come from the prevention of abuse and the rest will have to be found by employers and workers: unemployment insurance contributions are to be raised from 3 to 3.5 per cent next year.

True, this will not bite immediately because the social security pensions contributions, which went up in January, are to be reduced from 18.5 to 18 per cent.

But it will not be long before the pensions fund starts feeling the pinch resulting from reduced revenues.

Should this shifting game go on for two years, as is now intended, the deficit in the pensions fund will be around DM7bn.

This spells the end of improved pensions as announced before the 1980 election. It also means that increased contributions are already programmed for the 1980s.

There is no sign of fairness in all this manipulation. But there will be a bit in changes to pension privileges now enjoyed by people in the mining sector which account for a DM9bn drain on the budget.

The new budget would provide for special pensions only for miners who actually work underground. The others would be entitled to regular pensions only.

The Bonn politicians are also trying to come up with a fairer distribution of child allowances.

The idea is that big earners should get none at all — but the details here are still to be worked out. Gerda Strack (Frankfurter Rundschau, 31 July 1981)

While CSU Secretary-General Edmund Stoiber said of Maier that he had a "warped idea of freedom of opinion" and that he "lacked solidarity", a recent issue of the *Münchener Merkur* carried an article by the CSU Member of Parliament Gustav Matschel in which the author says that the *Bayernkurier* has "gone beyond the bounds of journalistic fairplay."

He said that the party paper's article was "not only harmful but was not even even intelligent."

He concluded that the CSU media policy had suffered a setback from which it will take years to recover.

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Karl Stankiewicz (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 July 1981)

Time for Turkey to come in out of the cold

Yet many delegations have visited Turkey, especially from Germany, staying a few days and seeing little but passing judgement on much (and condemning even more) of what they see.

Right-wingers naturally worry about detainees of their political persuasion, while left-wingers are no less keen to ensure that left-wing detainees (and they alone) are well treated.

Seldom have such delegations seen fit to sound a common note and call for the upholding of human rights.

They also seem to have forgotten that before the military coup 30 people a day were being killed in street fighting.

They are certainly reluctant to admit that they themselves did not protest against torture when carried out during the rule of previous civilian governments.

Still less are they anywhere near appreciating that it is hardly up to Germans to give other peoples lessons in democracy, having signally failed to gain democratic rights by themselves.

The Turks can hardly be said to have done so either, but that is hardly the point.

The Turkish armed forces took over power in 1960 and 1971, later returning to barracks in both cases, and they have no intention of holding on to power for good this time either.

This time, however, the generals want

to set up a democratic system that is stabler and better suited to Turkish conditions than its predecessors.

Europe is duty bound to give Turkey any help it may need. It is also duty bound to insist on human rights being upheld without fear or favour.

In its policy towards Turkey Europe must also bear in mind that it must provide a counterweight to the United States.

For the Reagan administration Turkey is first and foremost a bulwark against the Soviet Union. At present Washington feels it is of secondary importance whether or not Turkey has a democratic government.

The Soviet Union, having appreciated this weakness, is playing its cards for all they are worth. Moscow, which used to be the main supplier of arms to Turkish terrorists of all hues, is now keen to remain on friendly terms with Ankara.

The Bolshevik Ballet may have been sent on tour to Istanbul, but the Soviet view remains unchanged. Moscow speculates on the West being unable to retain its hold on Turkey in the long term.

This Soviet strategists maintain, is because democracy can time and again be upset in Turkey.

America and Europe, on the other hand, must feel that a military realignment in Turkey's favour. Only

democracy can set the country straight again.

Yet if the current military government fails to restore democracy the prospect of democratic renewal may be shelved for decades.

Turkey is partly to blame for the current chill in relations with the West. Europe, a state of affairs from which only Moscow can benefit.

Anti-German sentiment has never since Turks have been regular visitors to the West. The *Münchener Merkur* has recently allowed itself a little criticism.

The Turks feel they have a right to visit the West as often as they like too. Herr Maier, a professor of political science, stepped in. He called the also feel entitled to any amount of financial backing.

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Newspaper row erupts into peace



Hans Maier (Photo: Sven Simon)

having "snooped" on students, closed his article with words that are typical of people who write letters to the editor: "There are a lot of people who think the way I do."

The *Bayernkurier* attack on the *Münchener Merkur* not only angered the paper's 81-year-old publisher, Felix Butterschütz ("It has all criteria of personal defamation") and Bavaria's SPD but has also split the CSU in two camps.

He sees a hidden threat in the full *Bayernkurier* article ("Unless you like the line you'll sink").

In the regular column he writes for the *Münchener Merkur* he asked his fellow CSU members: "Do we really want to let a man who has no opinion of his own and who is no more than a puppet of the media committees?"

He would be unacceptable to even conservative *Gleichschaltung* of the press. Party that did this would certainly not have me as a member."

He, who is also under fire from the *Bayernkurier*, which accuses him of

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Karl Stankiewicz (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 July 1981)

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Karl-Heinz Hansen (Photo: dpa)

Expulsion of rebel from SPD upheld

The Arbitration Committee of the Lower Rhine district SPD has upheld the expulsion from the party of Karl-Heinz Hansen.

Hansen, a Bonn MP since 1969 and member of the Bundestag Defence and Foreign Affairs Committees, has been under fire for his opposition to the Nato decision to boost the medium range missile potential in Europe and for his outspoken criticism of the Chancellor.

The committee ruled that he had caused grave harm to the SPD by "deliberately violating the important principle of party solidarity."

Hansen's first "violation" occurred in February when he lambasted the Chancellor in an article in the magazine *Konkret* for permitting the supply of submarines to Chile and called the whole thing "a political disgrace."

The expulsion decision was further buttressed by Hansen's statement in early May to the effect that the Nato decision was "a sort of secret diplomacy directed against our own people."

The committee decided that this was clearly directed against the government under Helmut Schmidt and that it was a "deliberate insult" that could lead the public to believe that SPD policy was directed against the nation's interests.

The arbitration committee stressed that the ruling must not be understood as a ban on the public debate and criticism of the Social-Liberal government policy.

But it also emphasised that the manner in which Hansen acted lacked respect for those who hold different views and that it was "driving a wedge in the party."

The wedge is already in evidence. Hansen, who describes himself as a "good Social Democrat who steadfastly sticks to the resolutions passed at party congresses and adheres to the basic principles of his party", refuses to give in.

He now wants to take the matter before the National Arbitration Committee and, if necessary, to the Constitutional Court.

There is a tide of letters of sympathy inundating Hansen's Bonn office, mostly from the Young Socialists and the SPD rank and file.

Adel Brandes (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 22 July 1981)

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POLITICS

Schmidt convinced his policies have the real grassroots support

The Chancellor, Herr Schmidt, maintains that his policies would win a clear backing in the SPD if grassroots views were articulated.

He is convinced that many delegates at party congresses who claim to be rank and file members are not.

When he threatened to resign if the Nato double decision on arms-and-negotiation were not accepted, it was with the confidence that grassroots opinion in favour of the decision would work its way up through the party.

The SPD is no monolith. That is common knowledge. There are opposing views among the big three, Herbert Wehner, Willy Brandt, and Schmidt, collectively known as The Troika.

But they reconcile differences in the interests of party unity.

The Chancellor is convinced that he would not have to struggle for a majority within the party if he could deal directly with the grassroots.

It is this conviction that has prompted him to toy with the idea of summoning the SPD in his Hamburg constituency to a general meeting or indeed — but this was never meant quite seriously — of rallying the entire Hamburg SPD in the city's biggest stadium.

Schmidt is convinced that he has the backing of the true grassroots.

His idea is to rally the support of the silent majority by calling on it to speak up.

He likes to make use of two closely

connected organisations that can be taken as the true voice of the grassroots: the trade unions and the Social Democratic Working Party on Labour Issues (AfA).

Schmidt has always made a point of discussing and coordinating his policies with the trade unions.

And his prospects of success are excellent, despite the fact that the unions reject his latest decision on labour participation in industrial management and that unionists will fight any cutbacks in the social security system.

Though non-partisan, the trade unions and the AfA act as a link between the SPD and the working class and are part of the Chancellor's arsenal.

So it is not surprising that a working-class area like western Westphalia ranks among Schmidt's staunchest supporters in the party.

Schmidt can count on a large majority in the Bundestag. MPs are better equipped to understand political realities than those delegates to congresses who are semi-informed and ideology-bound.

The SPD in Parliament has a strong wing of down-to-earth realists whose only interest is to get on with the job rather than theorise.

Although the SPD left wing in the Bundestag consists of about 60 MPs, only 30 or so really count. And the hard core is barely a dozen.

So the Chancellor can depend on his party in Parliament — especially in view

of the fact that Floor Leader Herbert Wehner knows how to keep his MPs in line.

But party power cannot be measured in numbers. Willy Brandt, for example, has a great following in the SPD working class.

Whether this gives him any strong base of power could only be established if he and the Chancellor were to have a tug of war.

The same goes for the SPD in Parliament, which supports the Chancellor, although this must not be construed as meaning that it opposes Brandt.

And even in the National Executive Committee, Schmidt has repeatedly managed to rally majorities of 90 per cent or more, supported rather than opposed by Brandt.

The parliamentary party and the executive committee have always supported Schmidt on the missile modernisation issue.

Had Brandt steered a collision course with Schmidt, there would be a great many more opponents of the missile decision in the executive committee of 40.

Brandt acts as a catalyst within the party, bringing opposing camps together rather than separating them.

For instance, he is highly regarded among members of the SPD Women's Movement; he is still a dialogue partner for the Young Socialists (which can no longer be said of Schmidt); and he finds

it easier than Schmidt to get through the rebellious Baden-Württemberg. Brandt is closer to the party than Schmidt. He finds it easier to get through to the first level of the party establishment as well.

It is impossible to imagine what would happen if they had to sit each other in woeing each other party member.

But this will not happen and the strength of this party has been in existence for more than 30 years.

It is no secret that the troika head of the SPD has been known for differences for years. Yet the troika has always been reconciled.

A short while ago, the Chancellor telephoned Brandt in connection with the party chairman's visit to Bonn saying: "What's the matter? I'm annoyed about something."

The fact is that Brandt likes further than the government's foreign policy forays. This could lead to friction.

Wehner makes a point of dealing entirely on his own when and where he wants to speak his mind.

The three men sit at the top table of different personalities and grounds.

So it follows that they should eye-to-eye on a number of important matters.

But until there is proof to the contrary, it must be taken for granted that neither Brandt nor Wehner would be toppled for the sake of a 1974, this would mean the end of Social Democrats in government.

So solidarity remains. When he is at the crunch, the troika always the cart towards the common goal.

Gottfried (Die Welt, 21 July 1981)

Wehner stays at the helm in spite of the storms

Herbert Wehner, the SPD floor leader for 12 years, was the man who guided the transformation of the party into a populist movement.

The craggy face of Wehner, who is now 75, bears the marks of the many conflicts, challenges and storms.

He has had political disappointment and health problems, but he has never been tempted to throw in the towel.

Speculation about his resignation has been rampant for years, but he has made it quite clear that he will "pull the cart as long as the cart agrees to being pulled."

No matter how one feels about him, it is almost impossible to imagine a Bundestag without him. And whenever he takes the floor the usually empty Parliament is filled.

Yet he has never been a great orator, and his convoluted sentences bear witness to a mind that sees a great many facets and is subject to deep emotions.

And whenever his temper runs away with him — something he rarely leaves to chance — he provides the parliamentary drama many people look for.

But Wehner's explosiveness and his cynicism together with his whiplashes are not so much aimed at day-to-day politics as at an opponent whom he feels he must hit on moral issues.

Only somebody who has for decades been a butt and a victim of underhand attacks because of his communist past can lash out like this.

Wehner, who was in the resistance during the Third Reich, still smartens under the injustice of not being forgiven his communist past while those who were members of the Nazi party have long been exonerated.

Wehner himself has never hidden his past. He has never tried to hide the fact

that, while a member of the pre-1933 Saxon parliament, he lambasted both the Nazis and the Social Democrats.

Nor has he ever tried to cover up for the fact that, after Hitler came to power, he worked underground for the Communists and maintained close contact with men like Pieck and Ulbricht while living in Moscow's Lux Hotel.

But even before war's end, when he came to know Stalin's terror and informer regime, he started to break with the Communists. And in 1946, on his return to Germany from Sweden, he realised that his place was in the West and in Germany, and he joined the SPD.

In a way, those years were formative for Herbert Wehner. They gave him a first-hand insight into short-term tactics and long-term strategies, conspiracy and dogmatism and, naturally, many an abyss of human depravity.

Wehner, who has been a Bundestag member without a break since 1949, has always been deeply involved with and committed to the problems of the two Germanies.

His rise within the SPD was programmed — so much so that Carlo Schmid wrote in his memoirs that even in the 1950s "nothing could be attempted within the party without Herbert Wehner — something which to traditionalists could well have appeared as a break with the party's 100-year-old tradition."

At the 1959 Godesberg Party Con-

gress Wehner said he considered himself "once burned".

Quoting Kurt Schumacher, he said that Marxist ideology was only one of many pillars of Social Democratic programmes enjoying equal importance as philosophical and ethical tenets and, indeed, the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount.

It was Wehner who anticipated and prepared the transformation of the SPD into a populist party and it was he who was instrumental in paving the way for the Grand Coalition and the gradual transition from CDU government to a Social-Liberal coalition.

Although he was never interested in any high government office, he accepted the post of minister for intra-German affairs during the 1966-69 Grand Coalition.

That the CDU accepted him in this Cabinet post must have been as much of a source of satisfaction for him as it was for Franz Josef Strauss to have been declared "worthy of a ministerial post" by the SPD after he had had to resign over the Spiegel affair.

Wehner has been the SPD floor leader for the past 12 years; and during all this time he has been a shining example of devotion to duty to his younger fellow-MPs.

With all his instinct for political power, and the ways and means of getting it and holding onto it he does not consider himself as the vaunted "task-

master" and whip who ensures that the Chancellor gets the majority he needs.

Instead, he has been the man to whom chancellors how far they can go in facing Social Democratic ideas to the left of keeping a coalition together.

And it was Wehner who pointed out to Brandt when he was Chancellor that over the Guillaume affair.

Wehner has remained an ally of many of his close party friends and graphers.

In any event, it is obvious that of that which makes him tick is the memory of his early years in the SPD and his actual home in the east.

To know that his actual home in the east is still a part of his life, and that the other Germany (the GDR) has not yet been reunited, is a constant reminder of his being and feeling.

This has led to a number of statements in matters of Ostpolitik and earned him considerable criticism for alleged overtaxing of the Berlin Wall.

All this demonstrates the man who Wehner sticks to his own principles even if this means fighting it out with his fellow party members.

He has always been a loner who has been known to isolate himself and in his private life has always been a modest family man.

He rebuffs the wheeler-dealing of "rub my back, I'll rub yours" — only because of the reputation he creates among the electorate.

There is yet another difficult trait of a man who was a devoted follower of Marxist ideology in the late 1960s he confessed: "no man can manage without the long run."

Klaus-Dietrich (Der Tagesspiegel, 11 July 1981)

THE LAW

Constitutional Court alters principle on 'guilty party' in divorce

The three major rulings last year on divorce law reform the Constitutional Court seems, in a fourth, to have made a partial return to the principle of penalising the guilty party.

The Karlsruhe court has been reaffirming the essentials of divorce law reform it has imposed on the states at a number of points.

Restrictions, painful in their impact on the states behind the new Act, amount to a case law ruling along "yes, but"

lines. Is divorce to be granted when a marriage is felt to have broken down irreparably? Yes, but not when taken to extremes.

Should pension rights accrued during marriage be shared fairly between the two parties? Yes, but not if it means making an award from which neither is likely to benefit.

Ought a decree to be granted automatically after separation for a certain length of time? Yes, but not at a time that is totally unsatisfactory, even if that should mean no for good.

This was the gist of the three 1980 rulings; the latest, given at the end of July this year, can be expressed in similar terms.

Should alimony be awarded regardless of who may be considered to have been the guilty party? Yes, but not in the case of clear and serious misbehaviour by one or other of the parties.

The miscreant will not even be awarded alimony if he or she retains custody over children born during the marriage.

The obvious objection is that the parent who is awarded custody must either go out to work or live on the allowance awarded for the child's upkeep and

the statement to which she took exception was the quotation of the law in the March issue of *Gut Speil und Reisen*, a magazine published by the Wienerwald chain of barbecue restaurants.

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Klaus-Dietrich (Der Tagesspiegel, 11 July 1981)

(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 25 July 1981)

So it cannot be denied that good behaviour is to be rewarded and bad behaviour to be penalised.

Does this not amount to a return to the guilt principle? The answer can only be that it will depend on the circumstances.

The new ruling may apply to particularly serious cases only or it may mark a first step in the direction of a reversion to the idea of the guilty party.

The Constitutional Court has repeatedly called on the Bundestag to amend

the Act to enable the judges to decide more flexibly and in keeping with the individual circumstances.

Initial amendments have already reached committee stage. Others are sure to follow.

Every ruling so far by the Karlsruhe Constitutional Court judges on the law as it stands has widened the leeway of divorce court judges.

What constitutes clear misbehaviour? What is a decree that is totally unsatisfactory? What is a case of special hardship?

The way courts rule on these turns of phrase used by the Constitutional Court will inevitably differ from bench to bench in the years to come.

Time alone will tell which way the trend turns.

Eva Marie von Münch (Die Zeit, 24 July 1981)

Sharp reaction to overturned rape conviction

The Supreme Court has overturned a conviction against a housepainter who was alleged to have raped a girl apprentice.

According to the evidence, the apprentice had allowed herself to be raped because she felt it would have been pointless to resist.

The painter had pushed her into a storeroom and stood before the door.

In its judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that the painter could not be said to have used force. The girl could have called for help, it said.

The ruling has, not surprisingly, drawn strong criticism from women's groups.

Called for their views on the subject, women who deal most frequently with rape cases first ask: "How did you come by our phone number?"

Only then do they voice their views on the case, and they are invariably unfavourable to the bench.

Staff at the *Frauenhaus* in Porz, near Cologne, take a dim view of the ruling. So do their counterparts at Munich's *Frauenrat* and the rape emergency switchboards in Berlin and Mainz.

Yet they fall to sound the note of spontaneous protest that might have been expected in view of the court's considered opinion.

It is that force cannot be said to have been used when a man takes a woman to an out-of-the-way place where she cannot expect help so fails to offer resistance.

Locking a woman in or restricting her freedom of movement in a comparable manner need not necessarily be a use of force either.

It took a clearer reference to the ruling in question to elicit the expected response from the women at the other end of the line.

Gerti in Berlin said: "Judges and police have exactly the same mentality as rapists."

There is a Latin term meaning the use of force against a woman who is playing hard to get. The courts in no way equate it with rape.

Rape is similarly felt not to have occurred when the man assumes that the woman, who has abandoned overt resistance, is in fact a consenting party.

"A woman who is asked in the dock whether she was not excited and whether she did not enjoy it is raped a second time in court," says Gerti.

The woman is usually up against it in a rape case because in seven cases out of 10 the alleged rapist is a man she knows.

The case thus runs counter to the classical assumption, as sociologist Ulrike Teubner puts it.

Public opinion is for the most part loaded against the woman too, according to a poll by sociologist Kurt Wels.

He found that 39 per cent of people he questioned felt the woman was merely trying to avenge herself on the man, 45 per cent felt the woman who preferred rape charges was merely trying to justify what she had done in the eyes of parents, friends or her husband and 31 per cent felt the woman was just being self-important.

Yet the use of force as defined in rape cases does indeed differ from the Supreme Court's definition in other instances.

When a motor vehicle blocks the public highway it is, according to the Supreme Court, using force.

When protesters stage a sit-in outside a barracks and try to stop tanks from driving out by sitting in their path this too is a use of force.

Yet locking a woman in is not. The Supreme Court in Karlsruhe has only just ruled that it is not.

H.-H. Holmamer (Die Welt, 25 July 1981)

■ TRADE

Political considerations behind East-West deals



The whole question of trade between East and West has again come under focus because of President Reagan's opposition to the Europe-Soviet gas-for-pipes deal.

A little over a year ago, the arguments were discussed in detail when Jimmy Carter was President against the backdrop of the Afghanistan invasion.

Apart from Poland's troubles, there has been little change in economic relations between East and West since.

In fact, trade between the two has stopped growing. West Germany's trade with Comecon countries has actually dropped.

The East Bloc's drive to reduce its trade deficit with the West, which was ushered in in the mid-1970s, continues, according to the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry.

This has been further aggravated by the slower economic growth in both East and West.

Yet there has been some progress in economic cooperation as laid down in the CSCE Final Act.

But this is still being hampered by difficulties in establishing companies in the East. In direct contacts between companies in both camps and in obtaining information. The same applies to

the East Bloc's preference for barter deals.

All this makes such major barter deals as the envisaged European-Soviet natural gas agreement even more spectacular.

There is a political dimension to deals of this nature because they hinge on mammoth credits guaranteed by the state. They also go hand in hand with the hope of opening up major energy and raw materials sources that would relieve the global energy balance and make the East Bloc a responsible party in the present exchange, thus defusing the political situation.

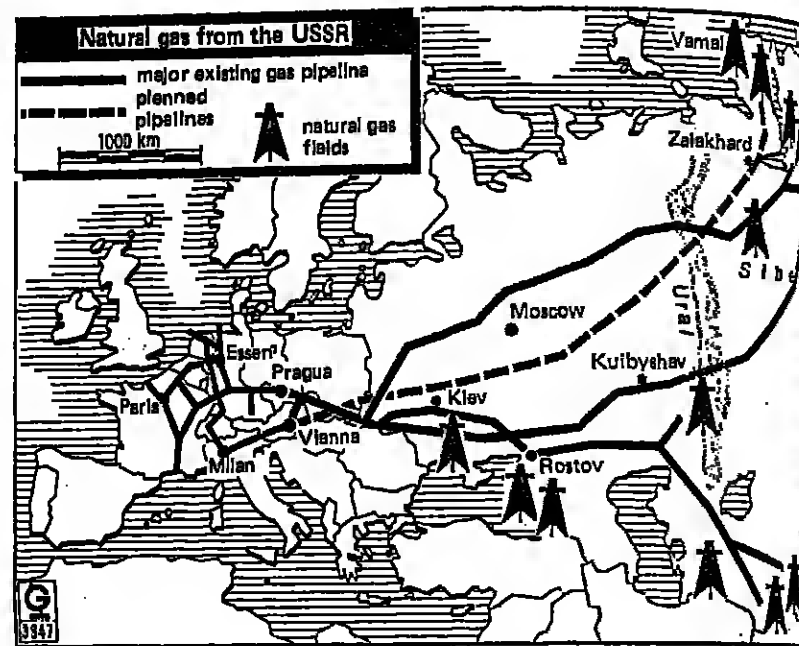
It remains to be seen whether the concepts on the two sides of the Atlantic can be reconciled. Bonn, buttressed by sensible business representatives, has made it clear that it sees no danger of excessive dependence on the Soviet Union and that it is prepared to cooperate in redrafting the list of strategically important goods.

But it is still unclear whether the United States wants to use foreign trade as an instrument of foreign policy.

In any event, as far back as last year Washington said it wanted the state-owned Hermes Insurance Corporation to restrict its export guarantees for trade with the East Bloc — both the range of goods and the amounts involved.

But all proposals that go beyond crisis response should be rejected by Germany and the Europeans.

Eberhard Wisdorff
(Handelsblatt, 24 July 1981)



Western banks give Poland crucial breathing space

The decision by several Western banks to grant a moratorium over several years for the repayment of the principal on loans to Poland is bound to be a great help.

Though the latest party congress in Warsaw provided the basis for a continued reform course in Poland, the democratisation process stands and falls with economic recovery.

Unfortunately, the economic situation is extremely precarious. Poland's production and exports dropped by 18 per cent in the first six months of this year.

The decline in coal production was as high as 20 per cent, which is particularly

grave as it is one of the main exchange earners.

The rector of the Economics Faculty in Wrocław told the congress: "continue along present lines and soon find ourselves without a need to reform."

If the banks had not granted the moratorium the Warsaw government would have had to find about DM1.5 billion for repayments of principal interest.

The weakened economy could not hope to raise this amount.

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Dispute over terms holds up flow of Russian gas

The deal bugbear is the gas deal with Norway that provides for the supply of 5.5bn cubic metres a year, starting from 1990. The first shipment would be provided via a new pipeline to be installed at a cost of about DM5bn with work starting in 1986.

The European gas companies were essentially guided by supply considerations in the Norwegian deal: North Sea gas is seen as a safe supply.

Also, once the pipeline to the Con-



tinent has been laid it could also be used for gas from fields north of the 62nd parallel.

Bonn's plans to replace oil by gas would have to be shelved.

A further delay of the fourth gas-for-pipes deal with the Soviets would provide additional ammunition for those who want to prevent the deal. This applies particularly to the Reagan Administration — but not a single one of the parties represented in the Bundestag.

Washington argues that the Soviet gas would expose Western Europe to political blackmail in view of the fact that the new contract would make the German gas companies dependent on the

Russians for 30 per cent of their supplies (today 17 per cent).

Another major argument is that the earnings from the deal would enable the Russians to build up their strategic potential still further.

The first argument overlooks two facts: the additional supply of 12bn cubic metres makes up for the 7bn cubic metres which from was supposed to have provided through a pipeline via the Soviet Union. No objections to this deal were raised in Germany.

In addition, the new deal would supplement quotas that will be discontinued on the expiry of the old contracts.

Another thing that is being overlooked is the fact that the Soviets are about to restructure their primary energy policy by replacing oil exports by gas exports.

In other words, oil shipments from the Soviet Union will be diminishing in the years ahead. Veba has already cancelled the import of 2m tons of Soviet oil.

The dependence on the Soviet Union for the enrichment of uranium, which now accounts for 50 per cent and to which no objection has ever been made, will be reduced once new capacities are put into operation by Euratom.

The supply of the private sector would remain unaffected even if the Russian were to turn off the tap from one day to the next because 83 per cent of Germany's gas still comes from West-

ern Europe (Norway 16 per cent, land 37 per cent; domestic production 30 per cent).

Thus the Soviet gas share in our many energy supply amounts to less than 5.5 per cent — far from enough to make us vulnerable to blackmail.

Moreover, the proportion of Soviet gas would go down fairly soon because of a fact which has embittered President Mitterrand and was probably at the heart of his harsh criticism.

Known deposits in the North Sea alone have doubled in the past 18 months, and experts are of the opinion that this trend will continue.

The argument that Western Europe would be boosting Moscow's status through the gas deal is wrong as far as foreign exchange earnings are concerned.

The deal for 40bn cubic metres would earn the Soviets some DM1.5 billion annually. But this amount would have to be used to pay for the gas pipeline from north-western Siberia to Europe for which they need DM10bn German credit since the gas against hard currency will not be flowing until the mid-1980s.

Those who want to deprive the Union of foreign exchange for the heavy borrowing in the West and strategic considerations would be opposing all trade with the East to be consistent.

Yet the OECD countries want to develop this trade still further.

The alternative, in planning supplies can therefore be summed up: increasing the share of Soviet gas to the current 3 per cent to 5.5 per cent, total energy requirements of the country an 80 per cent dependence on Opec powder keg.

Hans-Georg Glaser
(Frankfurter Allgemeine, 24 July 1981)

FINANCE

Ottawa summit strengthens Schmidt's hand for domestic economising

The Ottawa summit conference has strengthened Chancellor Schmidt's hand for the cuts that will have to be made in the Bonn budget for 1982.

Interest rates are not to be lowered, and this, plus the fact that those involved at Ottawa have agreed to cut budget deficits and spending from consumption to investment, has given Schmidt several cards.

It is not surprising that he came "armed," as he told a Press conference.

Using these cards will make it easier for him to halt the departure from fiscal sense though the operation is bound to be painful.

High interest rates, which have been a scourge for all sorts of ills, have again on money markets and fore-

men to strongly resist running up debts.

American interest rates are not likely to fall soon. This will only happen if America's inflation rate shows signs of falling.

President Reagan listened to the complaints over the erratic money rate and exchange rate fluctuations. Federal Reserve Board Chairman A. Volcker told the US Senate that would keep his foot on the brakes.

The Federal Reserve Bank was unwilling to ease up prematurely in the autumn of 1980.

But this presupposes that the paring knife is applied evenly and without sparing the civil service.

More taxation means more moonlighting, more tax evasion and less efficient workers.

Continued on page 6



In any event, Schmidt's blueprint is completed though he has so far kept it to himself.

It is pretty safe to assume that both the Chancellor and his finance minister are determined to put the emphasis on paring down expenditure by doing away with certain subsidies and tax advantages rather than resorting to direct tax increases. This makes it unlikely that the tax on oil will be raised.

The figures mentioned in Ottawa amounted to cuts totalling well over DM18bn.

But the question is where to start paring which, incidentally, must not be done by Bonn alone but also by the Länder and the municipalities.

Considering that 38.5 per cent of Germany's GNP already goes into taxes and various social security contributions, it is obvious that there is little scope here.

Trade Union Federation Chairman Heinz Oskar Vetter should think twice before suggesting higher tax for the self-employed. In any event, such a suggestion would be likely to fall on deaf ears in Bonn, which works on the assumption that the unions will cooperate in the new austerity programme.

But there is some scope for cutbacks in the spending of the Federal Labour Office.

This could include the money that goes down the drain due to provisions governing the temporary employment of wives during the season, or in the catering business; the practice of dismissing staff on reaching the age of 59 at the expense of the social security pensions system; and the miners' insurance that should apply only to those who actually work underground.

monetary policy is entirely foreign trade oriented.

Moreover, it stresses that the present policy is not excessively restrictive. Banks have received a liquidity boost worth billions as a result of the support action for the French franc.

The Bundesbank is more optimistic than before on economic developments in this country because production has been maintained.

According to the report, the GNP in the first quarter of the year was DM380bn, 0.5 per cent higher than in the same period in 1980.

This means a GNP rise of just under 2 per cent against last year. But, adjusted for inflation, there has been a 2 per cent drop.

The Bundesbank now pins its hopes on rising production.

Bundesbank adamant: money controls are to stay

Money will remain tight and expensive for the rest of the year, says the Bundesbank.

Its latest report, undunted by criticism from the Ottawa summit and the trade unions, says that because of inflation, money supply during the second half of the year should increase by no more than 4 or 5 per cent.

This was in line with keeping the 1981 monetary growth target at between 4 and 7 per cent.

The Bundesbank stresses its determination to combat both home-made and imported inflation in order to restore the confidence in the buying power of the deutschmark, both at home and abroad.

Inflation rate has inevitably risen, it says. Instead of the anticipated 3.5 to 4 per cent, domestic goods are likely to go up by 4 per cent in during the year.

As a result of the heavy deutschmark depreciation against the dollar, prices of imported goods and production costs have risen more than anticipated.

The money supply went up by 5 per cent in May and June and the Bundesbank rejects the accusation that its

policy is entirely foreign trade oriented.

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The social security system devours some DM86bn, about one-third of government spending. So it cannot be immune to cutbacks.

This applies even more to the special civil service privileges and to the DM44bn defence budget — especially in view of the fact that no treaty or agreement stipulates a three per cent annual increase.

Anybody who in today's situation gets out to cut spending and put the budget on a sound footing must not be deterred by a forest of taboos.

Franz Thoma
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 23 July 1981)

Agriculture escapes EEC cutback

The EEC budget has been cut by about DM1.5bn from the original DM56.8bn.

Regional and social expenditures come off worst, which is a blow because of unemployment in all member nations.

In contrast, the biggest money guzzler, agriculture, is untouched.

Britain, among others, had hoped to receive a several-million-deutschmark booster shot for its structurally weak economy.

The cutbacks are a victory for Bonn, which has long wanted to pare down the Community budget.

Though the finance ministers are still withholding approval of the additional billion asked by France, that country's dogged pursuit of its demands gives a foretaste of the resistance Bonn's envisaged agricultural reform will continue to meet with.

As long as President Mitterrand remains determined to keep the farmers on his side Europe will continue to economise in the wrong places.

Bettina Wieselmann
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 July 1981)

Output in May reached the previous year's level, after lagged behind in the first four months of the year.

Overall production, including the construction industry, in the first five months of 1981 was 3 per cent below the previous year. Yet production in the manufacturing industry dropped by only 2 per cent.

In electrical engineering, road vehicles and consumer goods there was a slight increase in May. Only the construction industry lagged 3.5 per cent behind the previous year.

Hopes that the economy would receive a shot in the arm through stepped up exports were dampened by the disappointing orders in May.

But the central bank attributes the diminished demand in the manufacturing industry in May (8 per cent below the April level) to the heavy tide of orders in the preceding months.

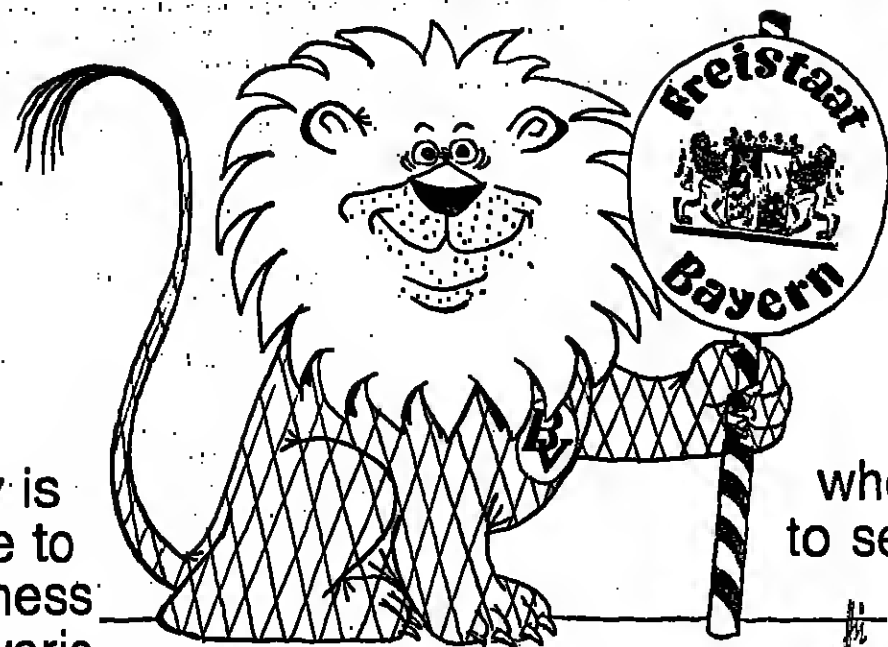
Foreign orders in May dropped by 10 per cent against April; but their volume was still 8 per cent greater than in the same month of 1980.

Domestic orders (adjusted for inflation) in May lagged 6.5 per cent behind April when a many of major orders came in.

Overall, the order books in May were slightly fuller.

Harald Manke
(Abendblatt, 21 July 1981)

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SPACE RESEARCH

Unlocking the secrets of the universe

outer space, explains Pater Mezger, the man who runs Effelsberg radio-telescope, near Bonn, is open, endless. Hope the idea doesn't worry you," he says, a note of satisfaction in his voice. Professor Mezger leans back in his chair and says, with a happy smile, that the universe is expanding and will continue to do so for ever.

"The idea certainly doesn't worry me," claims, looking convincingly relaxed a polo-necked shirt and corduroy trousers.

This is an allusion to a number of schools of thought that are far from away at the idea he shares with many astrophysicists.

It is that a primal bang shook the universe 15 billion years ago, since when it has been drifting apart, the further the faster.

Professor Mezger is head of the Max Planck Radioastronomy Institute, Bonn. His radio-telescope, in the Eifel hills south of the city, is the largest in the world. It has been in operation for exactly 10 years.

His claim that the universe is expanding into infinity, while confidently made, is still controversial among astronomers. The imponderable is an elementary particle, the neutrino.

The neutrino's existence was postulated by Wolfgang Pauli to account for the beta decay of neutrons. When not in motion it seems to have no mass.

Physicists say that at rest it has zero mass. But if it has any at all (and there has yet to be experimental confirmation that it has), Professor Mezger's view of the universe will be in trouble.

To be able to say one way or the other whether the universe is open or closed, finite or infinite, scientists study the density of matter.

A cubic centimetre of water, weighing one gram, has a density of one. The earth as a whole has a density of five and a half. The mean density of the universe is minute — because of the wide open spaces between galaxies.

If all matter were equally distributed throughout the universe its mean density would be less than 10 to the power of minus thirty.

In other words, zero point 29 zeros, then a figure one. And that, says Professor Mezger, is 40 to 50 times below the critical density.

Critical density is a crucial concept in cosmology, or the study of the universe. If the density of the universe is greater and there are more particles per cubic centimetre, the expanding universe will stop expanding at some time or other.

In accordance with the laws of gravity it will then start contracting again, whereas if there is less matter per cubic centimetre it will carry on expanding forever.

The critical density is roughly 10 to

the power of minus 29 grams of matter per cubic centimetre of space.

Professor Mezger and his fellow-astronomers in Bonn arrive at a figure of less than the critical density by measurements of the frequency of the two lightest elements.

They do so by using the world's largest radiotelescope, Effelsberg with its dish antenna 100 metres (328.1ft) in diameter.

The gigantic antenna receives electromagnetic radiation in the radio range, between 75 centimetres and 7 millimetres in wavelength.

In this way it is possible to probe interstellar nebulae in which hydrogen is ionised by the light from a nearby hot star, areas in outer space known as H II regions.

They are particularly well suited for frequency measurement of hydrogen and helium, which between them account for 98 per cent of cosmic matter.

Inferences can be drawn from these measurements as to the density of elements. Density can even be reckoned back to what it must have been a few minutes after the big bang.

In the wake of their measurements and in accordance with theoretical considerations the Bonn boffins are convinced the density of the universe is less than 10 to the power of minus thirty.

Their findings are not yet universally accepted, however, Professor Mezger says, although other, unrelated observations indicate the same conclusion.

Experts will probably not be convinced until the neutrino problem has been solved and they know for sure whether it has mass or not.

Experiments have shown that neutrinos cannot weigh more than 30 electron volts, the electron volt being a unit of weight used by nuclear physicists.

That would make the neutrino 10,000 times lighter in weight than the electron. But this ceiling of 30 electron volts was the degree of accuracy of the experiments, so it is not a measurement of weight as such.

F. W. Stecker of the Goddard Space Flight Centre in America published early this year a hypothesis that neutrinos weigh about 14 electron volts each.

He arrived at this figure on the basis of purely theoretical considerations.

The Bonn radioastronomers have more to do than join in the quest for the elusive neutrino. Density estimates have shown that between galaxies the universe is nearly empty.

In other words, all mass is to be found in the many milky ways, and as Professor Mezger puts it: "The latest field of astrophysical research is gaining insight into how galaxies are formed."

How, indeed, did matter put evenly to flight by the big bang form individual concentrations of mass from which galaxies and stars later developed?

This raises the issue of the development of the elements, for the study of which even shorter wavelengths of less than 0.3 millimetres are needed.

But measurements in this range, the distant infra-red, cannot satisfactorily be taken in the humid atmosphere of the Eifel hills.

Steam in the atmosphere filters radiation out, certainly in this wavelength range, so the Bonn astrophysicists are associated with the construction of observatories in Southern Spain and Arizona.

A research aircraft is also to be built, in collaboration with the German Aerospace Research Institute (DFVLR) and six other European countries.

Horst Rademacher
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 July 1981)

On collision course

Gliese 710, a star that has made headline news in the United States, is set on a course that should bring it into head-on collision with the solar system.

It owes its name and its popularity to Wilhelm Gliese, a friendly middle-aged man who works at the astronomical computer institute in Heidelberg.

He invariably takes to the rostrum at international gatherings of astronomers when speculation about the origins, extent and future of the universe gets out of hand.

Gliese enjoys an international reputation as an expert on stars in the vicinity of the solar system.

There have been objections to his collision theory but the overwhelming majority of astronomers agree with his findings, subject to certain provisos.

Thirty-five years ago Wolsztol and staff of Bonn observatory discovered Gliese 710 and many other previously unknown stars. It was first classified as BD 1-3474.

The initials referred to Bonn, the number helps to explain why little attention was paid to this particular star at the time. It was one of many.

It took computer statistician Gliese to notice that BD 1-3474 was set right on course for a head-on collision with the solar system.

Evaluation of his computer findings revealed that BD was heading towards the solar system, not away from it, at a speed of roughly 25 kilometres a second.

It still has some distance to travel before it gets anywhere near our own planet, however: about 45 light years, to be exact.

Provided there are no changes in course, speed or direction, Gliese 710, as it is now known, should arrive on the solar scene in about 580,000 years.

In terms of the history of mankind this is a reassuring length of time. In terms of the estimated age of the solar system, five billion years, it is very little.

All computer estimates to date have arrived at the conclusion that Gliese 710 should pass by the solar system at a distance of between zero and five light years.

Zero would mean a direct hit on the Sun, which would mark the end of the solar system as we know it.

If, on the other hand, it were to pass by at a distance of five light years the solar system would hardly be affected, that being the approximate distance between the solar system and its nearest neighbour, Alpha Centauri.

Gliese reckons a direct hit would be extremely improbable but points out that if it were to pass by, say, the distance of Jupiter from the Sun, the solar system would unquestionably be in a turmoil.

Gliese 710, the sun that is heading our way, is a red dwarf star of the most common kind in the vicinity of our solar system.

Astrophysicists infer from the powerful calcium radiation it emits that Gliese 710 is extremely young.

So even if it has earth-like planets orbiting it they will not boast even the most primitive living creatures, there not having been enough time for them to evolve.

But we will not know for sure for 580,000 years!

Hans Günther
(Die Welt, 25 July 1981)

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■ THE ARTS

Bayreuth changes show
its flexibility

Thirty years ago Bayreuth was given a new look by Wieland and Wolfgang Wagner, the composer's grandsons. 1981 may well turn out to have been a similar turning point in the history of the Wagner festival.

The VIPs were there, as usual, of course, headed naturally, in Bavaria, by Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss and his Education Minister, Hans Maier.

From Bonn there was Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and the distinguished foreign visitors included the Begum Aga Khan, who had not graced Bayreuth for five years.

Socially, nothing much seemed to have changed. Artistically, it was another matter.

Thirty years ago Wieland and Wolfgang Wagner embarked on a series of new productions of his grandfather's operas that were intended in part to purify the oeuvre from ideological contamination and political abuse.

Wagner's work was, of course, extremely popular in the Third Reich and the Wagner family were on the best of terms with Hitler.

The Wagner brothers suffered periodic setbacks in their bid to restore artistic integrity and never did succeed entirely, Wagner's opera remaining controversial.

Their explosive potential was not buried once and for all; often, the fuse continued to glow and yells of anger were equally often heard from the victims of periodic explosions.

Bayreuth as an artistic workshop has continued to be receptive and flexible. Basically the festival made a logical progression from the 1951 *Parsifal* to Patrice Chéreau's *Ring*.

But times have changed. Critical and innovative productions such as those of directors Götz Friedrich, Harry Kupfer or Patrice Chéreau have given way to a new approach.

The new look, it may be taken, will be a little less aggressive, a little quieter and a little less strong on commitment (reflecting a swing of the social pendulum).

Take Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's *Tristan und Isolde*. It marks Ponnelle's debut at Bayreuth, also that of Daniel Barenboim as a conductor and Johanna Maier as Isolde.

Ponnelle's approach is middle-of-the-road. He transposes the tale into a more mythical distance and keeps the audience more at arm's length.

His sets are an odd variation on the subject of trees. In the first act the ship consists of rough tree-trunks and is a kind of primitive landscape.

In the second nature has grown almost pure, with an enormous tree in full bloom commanding the stage.

In the last act there is an ice-grey island with two gigantic, petrified tree-trunks splayed apart. It is clearly a Nordic island of the dead.

Against such backdrops *Tristan* is a rank outsider, a Black Prince dressed like a freebooter, a desperado even. His emotional outburst follows virtually as a matter of course.

Isolde too is clearly characterised by her appearance, her mise-en-scène. In the first act she is idolised by the powerful round and protective zone of her cloak.

She is a magic goddess, both bride and harbingers of death, who in the second act is transformed into a young and willingly yielding lover.

This distinction gives some idea of what the final act seems to bear out, that Isolde the beloved turns out to be a figment of *Tristan's* feverish imagination.

This time she certainly fails to reach Kareol. Kurwenal's report is intended to divert *Tristan*, who is driven to madness. She merely appears as a vision between the leaden tree-trunks.

Kurwenal's fight with Melor and Marke is likewise merely indicated in outline as a gigantic play of shadows.

Strikingly effective though this solution may seem (and it is seen in glaring light, incidentally), it is by no means unproblematic.

The problem is not so much one of the mystical union of the lovers in joint death but of the elimination of individuality. *Tristan* is left on his own in his nocturnal darkness.

Ponnelle's interpretation of the second act seems more convincing, especially the scene with King Marke, which is extremely tension-laden.

Tristan and Isolde are not separated; they stay quietly together, carried away, unerringly persuaded of their unity. Here too Ponnelle makes full use of the lighting. The second act of *Tristan* has probably never been so brightly illuminated.

It will seldom have been heard at greater length either. Barenboim conducts the opera at a very slow pace, unfortunately resulting in a substantial voltage drop for much of the action.

He does not pick up speed until the final scene. But his piano is finely delineated, an alluring cobweb of soft warm colour. His wind, on the other hand, is pored to the extreme.

Seldom has one heard such tired woodwind, offset by dark, soft strings.

There was no sign on the first night of the ecstasy of Wagner's music, its passion and harsh dissonance even. It is stretched out even where the composer warned against overextension.

Barenboim attacks to epic mezz, making an otherwise outstanding orchestra.

Continued on page 15



Ghanesian dance group lent a touch of character to Cologne academy.

(Photo: Alfred Knap)

Dance academy falls from
its professional best

There were too many amateur and student dancers at this year's Cologne international summer academy of dancing.

As a result, the high standards maintained over the years took a tumble.

A reason is that a big increase in interest in jazz dancing, ethnic dancing and even modern dance boosted the number of performers.

But not all indicated that they were amateurs.

Many lecture demonstrations and side-shows attracted spectators but jeopardised the hard professional work of the summer academy courses.

All this was particularly disappointing because this year is the academy's Silver Jubilee.

The aim was to keep tabs on developments in the international dancing scene with all its uncertainties.

The mainstay of the academy's work continues to be further education in classical dancing, and teachers of international reputations were at Cologne again this summer.

They included Joelle Mazet from Paris, Eileen Ward from London, Dinna Björn from Copenhagen, Peter Appel from Basel, Simon Mottram from Stock-

holm and Ursula Bormann from Cologne.

To boost and improve standard scholarship-holders, 11 of them were hired and lent a hand in the various classes. They came from Paris, Copenhagen and Toronto.

So it was that outstandingly accomplished and not only by Björn, who taught her class the lastingly important Bourdonville method by Eileen Ward and by Simon Mottram who concentrated on the male dancer.

The general enthusiasm was a help to the teachers of modern dance too, who included Mary Hines (London) and Clay Tallaferra (London).

Even Alvin McDuffie from New York, who for the past six years has been one of the favourite teachers at Cologne, he had never worked as successfully this year.

The academy is also making towards its second major objective, of stimulating choreographic activity and creativity among dancers, who are notoriously prone to imitate others.

Hans van Manen has for years been students his methods of choreography. This year he rehearsed scenes from *Macbeth*. He too was much happier he had been last year.

This year a class in modern dance was run by Clive Thompson, head of dance centre in New York. It showed how urgently needed was acquaintance with modern choreography.

This side of the academy's work definitely be intensified.

Clay Tallaferra's guest for a period of movement was based on the legacy of Mary Wigman and the dance of expression, which is still neglected in this country.

Another newcomer to Cologne was choreographer workshop in which Caculeanu and his Theatre d'Opéra de Rennes, stimulated dancers to get down to creative work.

Caculeanu's aim was to stimulate imagination of dancers who are snowed under by the unimaginative training routine.

He did not yet have time to develop structures of dance.

Continued on page 12

ENTERTAINMENT

The circus that
wouldn't die

Roncalli, playing to packed houses everywhere in Germany, was in July 1976 by two Viennese fans, singer Andre Heller and Bernhard Paul.

"We share a dream in common," they said. "Yet the dream ended after only a few weeks of rave and full houses."

Two men were at loggerheads, the folded and its obituary notices in newspapers said with genuine regret. "You would surely never be such a circus again, that there was room for such poetry in a down-to-earth."

The Big Top was dismantled, wages owing, the travelling circus and its who had given so many people so much pleasure in such a short time, dissolved. It was all over.

So it seemed. Five years later Roncalli is back, risen from the ashes of obscurity and unsettled habits.

It owes its resurrection to the unflagging enthusiasm of Bernhard Paul, his son of a circus as theatre and nostalgia and an injection of cash and ideas.

Emil Steinberger, the Swiss comedian on TV star.

"It has been the toughest time of my life," says manager Paul, who got the circus back on its feet without a penny in the bank.

The opening number are Pic and Pello, pantomime clowns, who rush into the arena wearing outside papier-mâché

Those who remembered the first Roncalli must have felt, as they stood in line waiting for the doors to open in Munich, it would be little short of a miracle if the circus were to be anywhere near as wonderful as it had been. But as they queued for the Journey to the Rainbow (the slogan of the current Roncalli programme), a "performance" in two acts on sawdust with 10 scenes between the four poles of the Big Top, they were given a taste of what lay ahead.

The circus people, in full dress or costume, came out to spray the waiting crowds with confetti, to dab them with make-up and sprinkle them with glitter.

The audience felt they belonged even before taking their seats (either red chairs or wooden benches) in the brand new dark blue tent.

The opening number are Pic and Pello, pantomime clowns, who rush into the arena wearing outside papier-mâché



Roncalli's back with something for everyone.

masks and gesticulating as they look around for a seat.

It is easy to identify with the two clowns and this feeling of being at one with the company is maintained throughout.

It is sustained with imagination and sophistication from one number to the next, both full-scale numbers like the trapeze artists or the lion-tamer and interludes for scene-shifting that are clearly no more than minor inserts.

Noisefully a gaily-coloured giant dragon wends its way round the aisles. So a little later, does a two-man zebra.

Then the audience are roped in for a musical number featuring a glockenspiel. On the Munich premiere night August Everding, general manager of the State Opera House, was particularly belaboured by clowns and jugglers.

Balloons and suchlike extras are really nothing more than extras. They are not provided to offset other shortcomings of the show.

The colourful costumes of Holiday on Ice are pale in comparison with the dreamlike attire of a group of jugglers and acrobats from China.

Their acrobatics, their juggling, their jumps through hoops slick with knives or ablaze put many a performance killed as a world sensation to shame.

The fire-eater, another relic of a bygone age, was equally entralling. For a finale he blew an enormous sheet of flame from a glass of schnapps and put it out by swallowing it.

And what a successful combination of poetry, comedy and ability the audience were privileged to see in the Frog Prince number!

The glittering frog is an acrobat capable of the most astonishing contortions: Pic and Pello urge each other to kiss the frog (whom they visualise as being a bewitched princess).

Lights out, spot on, and into the ring rides Elvira, the Queen of Lippizana, on her circus horse. No chicken for a princess, she is dressed rather like Queen Elizabeth I of England.

She and her mount, a white horse, make the most accomplished equestrian combination one could possibly imagine.

As for the frog, it has turned into a creature that is all head with a pair of legs attached, like a figure from the imagination of Hieronymus Bosch.

It is ugly and sad, unable even to put the horse out of its stride by jumping to and fro and getting in its way.

Bernhard Paul, who like Hitchcock plays minor parts in a few numbers, is unimpressed by routines that are so dangerous there is a serious risk of performers being maimed or killed.

But he has no objections to excitement, and the ring is cleared for Rene Strickler, a nimble-footed lion-tamer and the very opposite of everything one expects a lion-tamer to be.

Yet his number is an outstanding achievement, combining lions and tigers, panthers and brown bears (unmuzzled), a polar bear and two St Bernard dogs.

He makes it all look so easy! As for the St Bernards, they are only too happy to make their stay in the ring a short one. The other animals make them look somewhat puny.

Then comes sheer magic. Pello the clown rolls into the ring inside an egg-shaped container painted dark blue and dotted with stars.

To captivating music he just blows bubbles. They grow bigger and bigger, bursting like beautiful dreams that have to come to an end some time or other.

Without saying as much as a word Pello shows his disappointment, then delight as a new galaxy of bubbles glitters in the arena. The audience are no less delighted, sharing his childlike pleasure.

The decision to rehire the Olympiads, a three-man group of gold-painted acrobats who went through their routine at a breathtaking snail's pace in the fluorescent glare of the spotlights, was entirely justified.

Their turn is one you could watch time and again. The same goes for the clownery of Fredi Spaghetti, the waiter.



Man of Bronze steel themselves

(Photos: Stefan Odry)

As for the Original Codralls, a white-painted Harlequin and two flat-footed clowns, their routine was as timeless as circus itself.

"When the audience leave the Big Top of Circus Roncalli," said Bernhard Paul before the Munich premiere, "maybe they will see a few things differently."

The applause would seem to indicate that they all felt how right it was to have resurrected the circus of days gone by, a childhood memory many must have felt was irrevocably a thing of the past.

Gerlinde Wach

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 July 1981)

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Continued on page 12

■ MEDICINE

Dead or alive? Problem for surgeons



A German group is working on a list of criteria to enable doctors to establish beyond doubt when someone is dead.

This is a major problem for surgeons, especially those involved in transplants. There should be no conflict between, for example, giving an accident victim with severe brain damage the best possible care and needing his kidneys for a transplant.

The subject was discussed at the 7th International Congress on Neurosurgery in Munich.

A delegate from Würzburg, Eckard Halves, said that what mattered was to remove all doubt about the death of a potential organ donor.

The issue was becoming increasingly controversial, especially in view of the discussion on "humane death".

Here the problem was when to provide guidelines on when to pull out the plug.

Although brain surgery would be unthinkable without such modern methods as computer tomography, microsurgery and laser technology — despite all the criticism of a "soulless technological medicine" — technological progress has turned into a bugbear of neurosurgery, delegates heard.

Manfred Steinbach, of the Bonn Health Ministry, said that while technology was developing ever newer methods of treatment, it also made it more difficult to diagnose and prevent certain diseases that result from the technological and social changes in our environment.

Japanese neurosurgeon Seishi Fukums suggested that the real question was whether technical development was not too fast to be applied sensibly.

Another medical-legal issue that was discussed at some length concerned the extent to which a doctor must tell his patient about his illness and the risks a possible operation might involve.

In this country there is a tendency to list all possible risks as comprehensively as possible in special forms that are handed to the patient.

But many doctors and lawyers reject this method. They say that the doctor should tell his patient personally.

Hans Kuhlendahl of Düsseldorf told the press that he felt patients were not always adequately informed of medical risks. But he also stressed that the accusations of not having fully informed their patients are frequently levelled deliberately with lawsuits for malpractice in mind.

The American Byron C. Pevhouse was asked how Germany could prevent American conditions where damages to the tune of billions of dollars are awarded by the courts in cases of malpractice.

He suggested that the disputes should be settled out of court and he put before arbitration committees of doctors, jurists and other personalities known for their integrity.

When Pevhouse said that there were too many doctors on such arbitration committees in Germany, he was vehemently rebutted by Kuhlendahl.

The explosive problem of stereotaxic psychosurgery was dealt with only on the periphery of the mammoth congress.

One paper on such surgery for patients suffering from chronic schizophrenia was read by a South Korean surgeon. There was also a film on this type of surgery and its application to behavioural disorders and uncontrollable aggression presented by an Argentinian team.

According to Karl-August Bushe, who chaired the congress, functional neurosurgery is in itself a speciality within the specialised field.

A press release pointed out that the spectacular reports on stereotaxic brain surgery for people who had committed sex crimes have provided the public with a distorted view of neurosurgery.

But the wide range of topics dealt with at the congress which amounted to a review of international achievements in this field seems to demonstrate the opposite. After all, stereotaxic operations account for less than one per cent in this field of surgery.

Renate Jäckle
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 July 1981)

Dance academy

Continued from page 10

tion. But maybe, in the long term, the generally depressing standards in choreographic competitions will improve as a result.

Susann's composition class showed that new choreographic developments could well be expected from the Spanish dance.

She ended her course with a fascinating group choreographic venture in the flamenco spirit entitled *Obsesión por Seguiria*.

Sándor Timár from Hungary, who with musicians from his country rehearsed dances from Western Hungary and Rumania, provided an example of how folkloric dancing can accomplish more than merely preserving traditions.

Gisela Peters' course was particularly welcomed by teachers. She and her Cologne children's ballet showed just what importance dancing can have for children and what importance children's creativity can have for dancing.

Other quality items included that of the Spanish dance company headed by Ursula Kanflewski, a lecturer at the Cologne Institute of Stage Dance.

The final show again indicated the academy's enormous potential and that of its students and staff.

One can but hope that their exemplary work, influencing the international dancing scene as it does, will continue to be adequately subsidised next year.

Helmut Scheier
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 July 1981)

Cancer is largely caused by a major malfunctioning of body cells.

What happens is that such a cell or tissue can no longer fulfil its function within an organ, Professor Renato Dulbecco of San Diego, USA, told the 31st Congress of Nobel Prize winners in Lindau, Lake Constance.

Dulbecco, the 1975 Nobel Prize laureate for medicine, based his concept of the roots of cancer on experiments with animals where malignant tumours were induced by viruses or chemical substances.

Oversimplified, viruses are more or less poorly "packaged" genetic predispositions in a cell that cause it to produce similar genetic materials, reprogramming it, so to speak.

This brings about a fundamental change in the cell's function blueprint.

The change caused by the virus provides a new blueprint and mechanisms that could explain why the functional realisation of genetic material is changed in cancerous cells.

The change in the "expression" of the genes can cause a situation where the genetic information contained in a normal cell causes a malignant tumour.

What this boils down to is that the "excessive expression of potential cancer genes" creates tumours that are poten-

Anatomy of a cancerous cell

tially there in normal cells but are harmless prior to the cell's transformation.

Dulbecco sees the development of cancer in two phases: the initial and the development phases.

Cell damage frequently does not show itself until 20 or 30 years after it has occurred.

To illustrate his point, he cited the following example: lung cancer attributed to cigarette smoking used to be blamed on the benzopyrenium contained in the smoke. The fact, however, is that smoke contains too little of this substance to cause cancer.

Today, medicine knows that benzopyrenium does not actually cause the tumour. It only promotes the development of a tumour in already damaged tissue.

In other words, cancer genes are harmless until activated by special substances, the tumour promoters. This applies to viral cancer and possibly also to the chemically induced variety.

Professor Christian de Duve of Brussels (1974 Nobel Prize for medicine)

told the congress about methods of combating cancer through selective chemotherapy.

Chemotherapeutic treatment is directed against the tumour itself and thus attacks the degenerate cells when they are in the sensitive stage of splitting.

Unfortunately, he said, this chemical attack is usually not targeted accurately enough to effect only degenerate cells.

As a result, healthy cells are also destroyed in the splitting stage, which is one of the undesirable side effects of this type of treatment.

Work is now in progress in Brussels aimed at enabling doctors to target the treatment at the cancer cells only.

It is hoped that this will be made possible by the receptors or "contact points" that exist on the surface of every cell.

These receptors differ widely but there seem to be certain types that occur only in cancer cells.

By combining the drug with a "carrier molecule" that attaches itself to the cancerous receptors only, it should be possible to destroy only degenerate cells.

Though elegant in theory, this method is not easily realisable in practice. But prospects are promising, Professor de Duve said.

Rolf H. Simen
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 July 1981)

Uniformity sought

Efforts are being made to standardise training in the branches of medicine which use no drugs.

Naturopathy and homeopathy, for example, which still sometimes fall into the category of what used to be called folk medicine, are taught at a number of commercial schools.

The president of the North Rhine-Westphalia *Heilpraktikerverbund*, Surmann, said that the rapid growth in these schools posed a danger.

Not only was the quality of the training at risk, Surmann told the Minister, Professor Friedhelm Mann, but the medical profession also given ammunition to use natural medicine.

Professor Ferthmann said he would suggest at the forthcoming conference of state health ministers that North Rhine-Westphalia standards be adopted nation-wide.

The North Rhine-Westphalia *Heilpraktikerverbund* has 558 active members. (The national association has a membership of 3,700; there are a total of 10,000 practitioners in this country.)

A training facility at Bielefeld has been run by the association since 1975. It has three-year courses with 100 students in each intake.

The curriculum includes subjects such as homeopathy, acupuncture, dietetics, laboratory procedures, massage and blood disorders plus health counselling.

The school also offers instruction in histology, physiology, immunology and general biology.

The training costs about DM1,000. Applicants are not subjected to entrance tests, the only qualification being an age of 21.

Herr Surmann says more than half the applicants are high school graduates.

One of the main problems is the law. The law says that the practice of medicine without conventional training requires approval by the authorities.

But the only condition to be met is an examination by a health department doctor following completion of the medicine training.

The medical profession has expressed grave doubts about examinations and their authority in terminating the medical knowledge of a candidate. The doubts are unfounded.

It is exactly this that the medical association wants to change with its demand for uniformity and examination guidelines.

The conflict between conventional medicine and nature healers, Herrmann says, has been deliberately blown up out of all proportion. The two of medicine, he contends, overlap and supplement each other.

As he sees it, there is on the one hand medicine in the form of applied science and, on the other, medicine which tries to influence natural processes and in which therapy is meant to play an active role.

Surmann says health is of paramount importance. He stresses the prevention rather than cure of disease. Even so, he emphasises that the physician of natural medicine must be referred to a conventional doctor.

Klaus H. ...
(Rheinische Post, 23 July 1981)

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■ OUR WORLD

Berlin squatters move in their senior team



A group of 43 academics, artists, writers and clergymen have thrown their weight behind the squatting movement in West Berlin.

They have moved into buildings which they consider likely to be demolished and say they are prepared to be demolished as well.

Among the 43 is a 72-year-old theologian and retired university professor, Haimut Gollwitzer, who arrived at his squat with a mattress slung over his shoulder.

The group took the action because it objects to the policies of Berlin's new CDU council.

It wants the council to stop demolishing houses and to begin renovating instead.

And it wants charges against arrested squatters to be dropped.

According to Professor Gollwitzer the alternative would be proof that "our society, with all its scandals and rigid petrification, can no longer be changed."

Many of the protest group, including Professor Gollwitzer, are civil servants, and their action means that they could face disciplinary moves.

They certainly are an incongruous sight in their Kreuzberg surroundings and are known to the squatters as "Opi Freaks" (Grandpa Freaks).

There were clues when Professor Gollwitzer arrived with his mattress.

"Take up thy bed and walk. Thy faith has kept thee hale," called one, lightly.

Some of the group found it difficult to make the decision to move in, and the operation was postponed once so a Press statement could be agreed on.

Part of the statement read: "We want to move into nine or 10 of the most endangered buildings."

"And now anybody who wants to demolish them will have to demolish us as well."

The 43 consider it likely that they will be removed if not "demolished."

The political situation, Free University Professor Peter Grottel (flanked by the authors Ingeborg Drewitz and the "father of the Berlin Constitution" Fritz Eberhard) told journalists, is "near hopeless."

This means that the new squat might already be too late.

Some three years ago the then president of Berlin's Technical University, Rolf Berger, asked the council to provide some of the city's empty houses as communications centres for Berlin's more than 70,000 university students.

Had this been done, the pent-up discontent that later led to all sorts of trouble could have been avoided.

Instead, the whole thing foundered on Berlin's bureaucracy.

It said there was so such thing as empty houses in Berlin.

It was then that the idea of squatting in its current form as *Instandsetzung* (literally: maintenance occupation) was born.

Violence flared towards the end of last year when the mayor then, Dietrich Stobbe, ordered the occupied houses

cleared without coming up with an answer to the pointless destruction of housing for monetary gain.

Hans Jochen Vogel, who succeeded Stobbe for a short while, managed briefly to contain the violence.

Now, a press conference by the Group of 43 has revealed not only the wide and almost irreconcilable gap between the city government and the protesters; it also gave an indication of the problems that will face the 43, who say they will squat for months if necessary.

The mood of the press conference was one of hostility.

"Police searches with the attendant recording of the names of the squatters and their 'criminalisation' will only make us more militant," said the statement.

Professor Eberhard said the Berlin Constitution guarantees the basic right to a home.

This provision was binding on the city, and while the Constitution made no provisions for any "right to speculation" it expressly granted the right to resist any restriction of the basic right to housing.

When Professor Eberhard added: "I wish you would continue your work along the lines of the Constitution... and the Constitution makes no provisions for disciplinary moves."

A multiple sclerosis victim is appealing against a court decision.

What she wants is the right to do things herself where she can, rather than rely on nursing aid.

Ingeborg Liebewein, 56, fears that her illness, which has condemned her to a wheelchair, may become a lesser danger than her fellow-men.

Her lawyers argue that the only care she needs is help towards self-help.

The case hinges round facilities at a home for the old and ill in Stuttgart, which are not all designed for a crippled person to use alone.

To start from the beginning: Frau Liebewein was a photographer until 20 years ago when she got multiple sclerosis.

Despite the illness she enjoys going to the ballet and occasionally to the pub.

She gets on splendidly with the conscientious objectors working in the home as orderlies in lieu of military service.

The home belongs to the German Social Fund whose symbol is a dot in a circle that is not quite closed.

The dot signifies the patient and the circle a feeling of security. The broken part of the circle stands for the fact that the patient is not cut off from the outside world.

Frau Liebewein took this symbol to mean what it tries to convey.

However the administration of has evidently been greatly concerned because one of its patients is determined to enjoy life.

In a letter, the office told Frau Liebewein that she was expected to go to bed at 10.30 p.m., like all the other patients.

One night when Frau Liebewein went to the toilet and afterwards to a pub, and did not return until late, escorted by two orderlies, she received another letter,

sion for hurrying stones," the reaction was laughter. The politicians have meanwhile adopted an attitude which Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky during a recent Berlin visit described as "pointless harping on the implementation of abstract legal tenets." Though Berlin's new mayor Richard von Weizsäcker, has been making an all-out effort to find some way out of the dilemma and deserves being commended for it, the 43 are adamant that the problem cannot be solved as long as the council's disastrous economic policy favours the haves.

"The solution to the problem cannot lie in sending one section of the haves, those in police uniforms, to battle it out against the other have-nots who are squatting in the empty houses."

As a result, the city government should stop demolition, withdraw its charges against arrested squatters and develop a rehabilitation programme for the buildings in close consultation with the protesters.

Professor Gollwitzer's said: "If they destroy what 2,000 activists and another 15,000 sympathisers have done here the



Professor Gollwitzer arrives at his new home. (Photo: Gollwitzer)

young generation will take this as another proof that our society with its scandals and rigid petrification no longer be changed.

"All that will remain will be a resignation into an apolitical attitude, into a resignation."

"There will also remain a small number of particularly intelligent people who will provide the nucleus of a new urban guerrilla movement."

Translated into plain language, can only mean a new Red Army.

tion. (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23/8/81)

Invalid takes self-help case to appeal

saying: "We find that you are again going to bed when you please."

The maxim in this Year of Disabled Persons is "Help Towards Self-Help" and Ingeborg Liebewein took it seriously.

In the small flat she has lived in for the past seven years there is what is known as a "wet cell" in the home. The wheelchair can be pushed in there and an orderly can put her on the toilet.

Frau Liebewein is quite capable of washing herself — except for her legs and her back. This is done by the orderly after overcoming her initial embarrassment.

This is of paramount importance because the moment she is embarrassed or afraid she simply stays in bed and nobody can get her out.

What matters, therefore, is to help rid the patient of fear.

All went well with Ingeborg Liebewein for a number of years. But then the home administration found that it too much work to look after her because her room was 80 metres from the staff room.

And since the ward for people requiring constant nursing was closer, Frau Liebewein was told that she should move there, despite opposition from her doctor.

In the nursing ward, however, the "wet cell" is so small as to make it impossible to shift the patient from the wheelchair to the toilet. Nor does it enable a patient to wash himself.

Ingeborg Liebewein fears that once

she stops washing herself she will lose the ability to do so.

It is a typical feature of multiple sclerosis that patients who are forced to do something soon become used to it.

Frau Liebewein decided to appeal. The judges ruled in favour of the patient and ordered the patient moved.

It said that order in the home must be maintained for the sake of the patients, and stressed that decency norms must not be placed in jeopardy.

And exactly this was the case of Ingeborg Liebewein because she was only looked after by a conscientious orderly when it came to being shifted from the wheelchair to the toilet.

The court pointed out that the fact that the home had permitted this did not mean that the practice should continue. Thus she has been moved to the nursing ward — a name of the people.

This can only mean that she is stripped of what freedom of movement she retains. She is to be forced into a passive life than necessary.

This brings to mind what Dr. Grottel (wife of the West German president) once said: "The loss of physical prowess is a danger of passivity... and passivity means faster physical decay."

Thus Ingeborg Liebewein is right when she says that her room could well become a greater handicap than her illness.

When she received a letter saying she would also have to be moved to the nursing ward, she dropped her pen.

She is now waiting for her appeal to be heard.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23/8/81)

SPORT

The teenage tennis player with the grown-up style

When tennis starlet Claudia Kohde, 17, barely hit a headline by winning the international grand prix in Kitzbühel she beat Sylvia Hanke Munich, whose world rating is in two sets — the second-best of her career.

Best was in Oakland, California, months ago when she eliminated the Wimbledon winner Martina Navratilova.

And Kitzbühel are not Wimbledon, of course, and her showing at Kitzbühel was somewhat disappointing — were those of Miss Hanke's.

But if she took her university entrance exams she would surely miss out on top-flight international tennis, so the family decided it was to be tennis.

They did so largely because Claudia was both sick and tired of school and keen as mustard to carry on with tennis. So she left school at 15 with a junior school certificate.

At 15 she became the youngest-ever German tennis professional, and Tennis Association officials were delighted.

At long last they had a girl who, like the US tennis teenagers, was willing to take the plunge into the chill waters of international tennis.

She was given every encouragement, being named a member of the four-woman Federation Cup team last summer (the Federation Cup being roughly equivalent to the Davis Cup for men).

A number of older women were somewhat upset at being overlooked, but in sporting terms her nomination was a complete washout, she says.

She was one of a galaxy of tennis starlets including such

as Hanke, Eva Pfaff and Christoph Zimp.

All of them have gone on to become European junior champions at one time or other. She was the youngest to do so, at the age of 13 (in her age group, of course).

"Claudia then had to decide whether to go all out for tennis as a career or to play it safe and pass her *Abitur*," says her stepfather Jürgen Kilsch, a Saarbrücken solicitor.

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Claudia Kohde... tennis before school. (Photo: Sven Simon)

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Claudia Kohde... tennis before school. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Her stepfather and manager says: "Claudia posed time and again for Press photographers as the baby of the team, but in the end she never played."

She is not a girl to engage in much talking, but that omission still ripples with her. This year she would probably have played but is most unlikely to be available for the Federation Cup.

Herr Kilsch explains. "In addition to the ridiculous sums the Tennis Association pays in comparison with what the men get for playing in the Davis Cup competition there is another reason why I have advised Claudia not to take part," he says.

The reason is Sylvia Hanke, her rival. The two girls have never been all that keen on each other, as neither would for a moment deny.

Sylvia is a temperamental, voluble Bavarian, Claudia is more reserved. Their relationship can certainly not go on as it is, Herr Kilsch says.

"For months Sylvia and Claudia have gone past each other as though the other did not exist. They are simply out of the question as team-mates."

"I was really surprised they went as far as to shake hands after the final in Kitzbühel."

Is Sylvia Hanke, unquestionably the No. 1 German tennis girl at present, an

incentive or a red flag to Claudia Kohde?

"Sylvia," she coolly says, "is a colleague and a rival like anyone else. I aim to be better than she is soon, but it has nothing whatever to do with the fact that we come from the same country."

Whether she will succeed in outshining the Munich girl remains to be seen. It is an equation with too many unknown factors.

Sylvia is No. 6 in the world ratings of the Women's Tennis Association, while Claudia is 29th, albeit with continual improvements.

Yet even though she has already proved more successful than a German tennis professional ever was at her age, it is still a long way to single figures in the computer ratings and the sunny side up at the top.

Jochen Greinert (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 July 1981)

ground into the gym. "The knockout blow is not the main problem," he says. "It is the many seemingly harmless ones."

In the course of a boxer's career in the ring they can lead to serious shortcomings in the central nervous system. Hamburg neurologist Professor Hans Finkemeyer is even blunter. Boxing for kids or at school? "A load of bunk," he snorts.

There are better and much less dangerous ways of keeping kids fit, but what really matters is what goes on in the brain: "In the long run tissue damage can occur that could later cause serious mental trouble."

He feels it is downright perverse to try and boost a child's self-confidence by allowing him to knock out another child.

Another view is voiced by Lübeck theologian Hans-Joachim Thilo. "Every day," Professor Thilo says, "I have to deal with youngsters who are simply unable to bear frustration. Young people really must learn to box their way through once more."

It earned him a reader's letter in the news magazine that quoted him which went as follows: "Not even the decadence of Ancient Rome went as far as to send children as gladiators into the arena, but our highly civilised society looks on indifferently when six-year-olds knock the stuffing out of other six-year-olds."

Peter Stiller (Olympischer Abendblatt, 24 July 1981)

Moves to put boxing back in schools

In the Soviet Union, for instance, 12 is the earliest age at which boys can go in for amateur boxing. In France it is 16.

"In theory," says ABA medical adviser Dr Wolfram Lemme, "besides-in-arms can go in for boxing in this country. So there really must be a lower limit set, and not too low."

He is opposed to boxing both for boys and at school. Views differ, and not even the doctors agree on whether the plan makes sense or is advisable.

"We know nothing really," Dr Lemme says, "not even what, in medical terms, goes on in the ring."

Doctors hope to learn more from a long-term probe commissioned by the Bonn Interior Ministry in 1975. But it will take 30 years.

So does this mean another 24 years of uncertainty until the long-term effects of boxing on health have been investigated?

"The younger you start, the more likely you are to suffer from chronic effects in later life," Dr Imre Forgo, who has examined 182 amateurs at Basle University Hospital neurology department, says.

He has misgivings about sending scrapping kids from the school play-

Bayreuth

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times vanish altogether into the sound.

It is naturally to the advantage of singers, who can sing out and do not have to overstretch themselves in and out of the orchestra.

The final scene René Kollo as Tristan is able to stretch his voice out and fall in an outstanding performance.

Metzler is a vocally unheroic singer. Just as his role is cast unheroically. She has a wide range of expression, but is not required to supply major moments of either passion or scorn.

So, she is a fine soprano and a superb Isolde.

Salminen as King Mark is less a Carstens (wife of the West German president) once said: "The loss of physical prowess is a danger of passivity... and passivity means faster physical decay."

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